

to say their goodbyes, and to recognize his bravery in fighting for such an important cause. I was honored to be able to write a eulogy for Will, which was read at the service.

Our prayers go out to Will's beloved friends and family members today. We are thinking of his wife Jennifer Evans Bowling; his daughters Hannah Kathryn and Allyson Peyton Bowling; his father, Adam Miller; his mother Kathleen Bowling; his parents-in-law James and Cathy Evans; his brother-and sister-in-law Jim and Roxanne Evans; his nephews Michael and Wesley Evans; his grandparents Chester Terry and Francis Bowling; his grandmother-in-law Kathryn Holloway, and many others. Will's grandfather-in-law, Frank Holloway, has also passed away.

Will also served alongside many brave soldiers in the Army, forging friendships that lasted a lifetime and beyond. We are thinking of SGT Billy Messer, SP Travis Tysinger, SGT Brian Marshall, SSG Billy Thompson, SGT Stephen Tucker, and SGT Arthur Briggs.

The town of Beattyville has honored Will by engraving his name on a memorial wall that is erected downtown. That's an appropriate way to remember Will as a soldier and a hero.

His wife Jennifer plans her own way of remembering Will as a husband, a father, and a man.

"I've bought a farm and I'm going to build a house exactly as we had planned," she says. "I will display his die-cast cars . . . and will put his Army memorials on display."

This Senate will remember SGT William G. Bowling for his life of service, and his enormous sacrifice. We honor his heroism in defending his family and his country. And we will not forget the example he has set for all of us—not least, his two young daughters.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 6327

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6327—this matter was received from the House earlier further, that a Baucus substitute amendment at the desk which is a 3-month FAA extension and a highway trust fund fix be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DEMINT. Reserving the right to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. DEMINT. I am very supportive of the aviation bill. I do think it is inappropriate to add \$8 billion of unrelated spending without debate or amendment, so I regretfully have to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am wondering while my friend is on the floor, the highway trust fund, according to the States, is upside down. There is not enough money in it. With the construction season upon us for renovation and repair of streets, highways, and bridges, I say to my friend: Would any smaller amount of money be satisfactory, say, \$6 billion?

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I appreciate the question from the leader. I think again it is inappropriate to make a decision on whether it is \$6 billion or whatever the figure is. Only a couple of months ago we were all here on a technical correction bill. We had the opportunity to take a lot of money that was saved from projects that were not needed. We talked at the time on this floor about the fact that the trust fund was short. But instead of taking that savings and putting it back in the trust fund, we used it to add additional earmarks and to put more money into projects that were there. So there has been no intent by this body to try to look at the problem with the trust fund. Certainly it is something we need to deal with but not as part of the aviation bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am disappointed but not nearly as disappointed as 50 Governors. This is a situation where the highways of this country are in desperate need of repair and construction.

With the economy faltering, as it is, and the housing market stumbling, this would be a tremendous help. For the \$6 billion, it would create about 300,000 jobs—300 thousand. For every billion dollars we spend, it creates about 47,500 high-paying jobs. The spin-off from those jobs is significant.

This would be vitally important to give our economy a little shot in the arm. So I am disappointed my friend has objected.

We are going to have to continue to work to try to replenish that trust fund. The trust fund is not adequately funded because of the fact that people are not traveling as much. They are not buying enough fuel at least to fill the trust fund. The price of gasoline, when President Bush took office, was \$1.46, \$1.47. Now it is an average of about \$4.12 a gallon.

We have real problems around the country. When gas was at \$1.47, the same tax came into the coffers to fill this fund. So it is an issue, and I would say to my friend, the technical corrections bill was just that, it was to take care of other things that were essentially needed at that time.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6327.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows.

A bill (H.R. 6327) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6327) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3661

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 836, H.R. 3661, an act to extend the expiring Medicare provisions; that the bill be read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, there is obviously a great need to correct the problem of what will occur if we do not fix the doctors' reimbursement schedule.

But there are also more ways to do this than one, and the one that is being proposed is the House-passed bill by the majority leader. We would suggest that since the Senate should be heard on this matter and have the opportunity to put its ideas on the table, Senator GRASSLEY and Senator BAUCUS should have a chance to work on the Senate proposal; that we would rather proceed with an extension of the present Medicare provisions so doctors are not subject to a reduction in reimbursement for 30 days and allow this to happen.

I will be required to object to this on behalf of the leadership over here and myself. Then I would like the courtesy of the majority leader to ask unanimous consent for a 30-day extension.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, this legislation passed the House by a huge bipartisan vote—359, as I recall, House Members voted for this.

Now, as far as putting the stamp of the Senate on this bill, we have already done that. We passed a bill. We had every Democrat and nine Republicans. That is basically what the House has sent back to us—that matter we took a look at earlier.

I say that the chairman of the committee, Senator BAUCUS, is 100 percent